(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) by when, the preliminary formalities are likely to be completed, sites identified and work started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Apart from eight nuclear power reactors (2x540 Mwe atTarapur, Maharashtra, 2x1000 Mwe at Kundankulam, Tamil Nadu, 2x220 Mwe at Kaiga, Karnataka, 2x220 Mwe at Rawatbhata, Rajasthan) presently under construction, and a 500 Mwe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor proposed for construction at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu, no decision has so far been taken by Government on the sites for setting up future atomic power stations. However, the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has constituted a Site Selection Committee (SSC) to recommend sites for the setting up of nuclear power plants in future. The SSC is presently investigating the sites in different electricity regions of the country.

Setting up of new nuclear power stations at any site depends on requirement of electricity in the region and the different energy options available, availability of a cleared site, availability of funds and size of the nuclear power programme. No decision has so far been taken by the Government regarding sites for setting up future nuclear power reactors.

Atomic Power Generation

1549. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA;
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a very small portion of power is generated through the atomic power plants out of the total power generation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the costs of mantaining atomic plants is viable *vis-a-vis* the quantum of power generated by each atomic plant;

(d) whether Government plan to upgrade and increase power production in these plants in the near future; and

(e) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (b) The present nuclear power capacity in the country is 2720 MWe which is about 2.6% of total installed capacity in the country from all sources. During the financial year 2001-02, the electricity generated from nuclear power stations was about 19400 Million Units (MUs) constituting about 3.7% of the total electricity generated in the country from all sources.

(c) Nuclear power stations are generating and supplying electricity to State Electricity Boards at competitive tariffs, and the cost of maintenance is included in the tariff. The relatively smaller share of electricity from nuclear power stations is on account of the small capacity base of nuclear power, and not on account of performance of the nuclear power stations.

(d) and (e)The performance of nuclear power stations has considerably improved over the years and is presently very much comparable with world average. Upgradation and modernisation are regular activities taken up in all our nuclear power plants with a view to increase plant life and enhance safety.

Setting up of Atomic Power Plants

1550. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:
SHRI T.S. BAJWA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have proposals to set up more plants to generate atomic energy for peaceful purposes;

(b) if so, what are the plans for such an expansion in the Tenth Plan;

(c) whether adequate finance has been identified for this purpose;

(d) the details of the new locations where such power plants would be set up;

(e) whether any State Governments have come forward to participate in such projects; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?